

SECRET

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26 October 1970

SPECIAL REPORT

A. Action:

This morning's Washington Post carried a front page story which was gathered from talks yesterday with people who are protecting one of the assailants of General Schneider. This university student named retired General Roberto Viaux as one of the directors of the plot. He also reported that persons of importance in the government, and especially the military, had lead the group to believe that if Schneider was kidnapped there would be a coup. The self-acknowledged assailant allegedly gave names of several officials and asked that the names be published if he was arrested. He apparently was bitter because after the kidnapping attempt there was no follow-up from the people he pictured as the leaders of the plot. The fugitive, whose friends were interviewed, acknowledged that his group, numbering 10, had been involved in many terrorist acts since the election. Reportedly the 10 involved directly are believed to have scattered and have found friends to shelter them.

B. Comment:

If this story is correct and if Viaux perpetrated the assault on Schneider in concert with Valenzuela's group, then it is likely that the plotters are desperately trying to find a way to prevent a public revelation of their involvement in the plot. The shooting of Schneider probably forced them to revise their original plan for overthrowing the government and they probably thought that it would be better to take a "wait and see" stance and let Allende make the next move. However, to prevent a public expose and its consequences, they may now be reconsidering the feasibility of launching a coup before 3 November. The Washington Post article and its apparent pro ammunition for Allende would appear to diminish the plotters ability to move against Allende once he takes office and the plot is exposed publicly (as we assume it will be.)

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